

Sinclair  
Broadcasting's  
decision to force  
their stations to  
air an anti-Kerry  
documentary days  
before the election  
is a clear example  
of the dangers of  
media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the  
public airwaves free  
of charge, and is  
obligated by law to  
serve the public  
interest. But when  
large companies  
control the  
airwaves, we get  
more of what's good  
for the bottom line  
and less of what we  
need for our  
democracy. Instead  
of something  
produced at "News  
Central" far away,  
it's more important  
that we see real  
people from our own  
communities and more  
substantive news  
about issues that  
matter.

Sinclair's actions  
show why we need to  
strengthen media  
ownership rules, not  
weaken them. They  
show why the license  
renewal process  
needs to involve  
more than a returned  
postcard. Thank you.

I believe that the  
our country is as  
divided as it is  
today partly because  
of the consolidation  
of the media. As  
media companies put  
more emphasis on  
"what sells" there  
are more partisan  
news programs and  
fewer outlets for  
legitimate, quality  
news. Our  
democracy depends on  
having an informed  
electorate. It is  
getting harder and

harder for voters to  
understand the real  
issues facing them  
in an election  
because of the  
disappearance of  
quality news  
programs.